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Apple unveils iPad with doubled memory



NEW YORK (AFP) - Apple Tuesday unveiled a new iPad with twice the storage capacity as the existing model in an effort to score business with companies that share large amounts of data.

Apple's new iPad will have a capacity of 128 gigabytes compared with the current model, which comes with different memory capacities but has a maximum of 64 gigabytes.

"With twice the storage

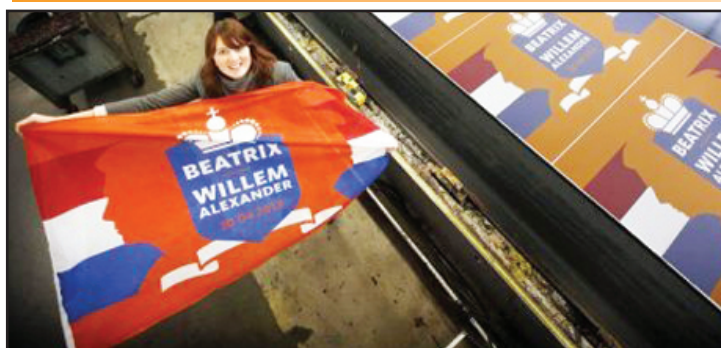
capacity and an unparalleled selection of over 300,000 native iPad apps, enterprises, educators and artists have even more reasons to use iPad for all their business and personal needs," said Apple senior vice president of marketing Philip Schiller in a statement.

Apple's move to expand its iPad following comes as the company faces tough questions from Wall Street over its growth prospects.

Company shares lost about 12 percent of their value last week after the company reported earnings that showed lower profit margins and smaller anticipated growth than expected.

The new iPad model will go on sale on February 5, with a suggested price of \$799 for the iPad with Wi-Fi capacity and \$929 for iPad with Wi-Fi and Cellular capacity.

Dutch to crown new king with massive party



A special flag for Queen Beatrix and Prince Willem-Alexander is produced in Dokkum, The Netherlands



A woman shows special cakes with a picture of Queen Beatrix in a bakery in Leeuwarden

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Famed worldwide for their merrymaking abilities, the Dutch on Tuesday set to preparing an "unforgettable" party for the coronation of their new king Willem Alexander on April 30.

Amsterdam hotels have already been booked up less than 24 hours after Queen Beatrix announced she would abdicate, and city hall has been overwhelmed by offers of partymaking help.

The coronation is to be held on the traditional national holiday of Queen's Day, during which public drunkenness is tolerated, and

Nationwide, streets and canals throng with sometimes unruly crowds dressed in garish orange scarves, shirts, wigs, even clogs.

Some people fall in the canals, but the good natured event in the well-organised country rarely sees serious accidents or fights.

Even Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, 45, and no stranger to some of The Hague's cafes, on Monday called on the Dutch to have an enormous party on the day.

"A party that matches our feelings today," Rutte said, although calling for the party not to be too extravagant because of the state of the economy.

"Amsterdam and Amsterdammers will, with all the Dutch, make April 30 an unforgettable day," city hall said in a statement soon after Beatrix said she would step down after almost 33 years on the throne.

Continued on pg 6

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AHATA denies STA allegations



Jim Hepple

Recent statements have been made by the President of STA that the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association is somehow interfering with employees' right to have a trade union represent them in the hotels. Nothing could be further from the truth. If employees want to have union representation the hotels and AHATA know perfectly well that they can do so at a property or business level.

What Mr. De Cuba and STA wants to do however is something completely different. Mr. De Cuba knows there is not enough support at a property or business level amongst the employees to want a union. He has said so himself. This is because the employees know that the wages, benefits and working conditions offered by the hotels are already very good and that a union can do little to improve this. So what STA wants to do is break up the

hotel or business into small units, for example an individual restaurant, or the house-keeping staff, or the engineers, and try to get them as a department or sub-department, to ask for union representation. He is doing this solely because he wants to increase the number of STA members not because he believes the employees at a departmental level are badly treated.

AHATA has joined with the Hyatt, the Westin, La Cabana and De Palm Tours to argue that unionizing at a departmental level is not what was intended by the original law which allowed a referendum to ask for a union at the property level. AHATA and its members are convinced that to allow unionization at a departmental level is not in the best interests of the employees, of the hotels, and of the tourism industry of Aruba. AHATA regrets that mediators in the past have allowed a small number of referenda at the departmental level but argue that this was a policy decision taken by the Government and the mediators themselves, and is not in the spirit of the law.

The CEO of AHATA said that the primary concern of the industry was that at a time when Aruba's tourism industry needed to be as competitive and efficient as possible,

allowing union representation at a departmental level would only lead to a breakdown in labor relations as hotels would find they were dealing with multiple unions and multiple labor contracts, all with different terms and conditions, with staff fighting amongst themselves as to whose contract was better, with a breakdown in the ability of staff to move within a hotel, all leading to a rapid deterioration in customer care and service. This is not speculation. It has happened elsewhere with terrible consequences.

The CEO of AHATA, James Hepple, recently returned from Caribbean Travel Marketplace where he met with a number of his equivalent national hotel association executives. Mr. Hepple learned that many hotels in Puerto Rico had unionized at the departmental level which had led to huge problems in labor relations, so much so that a number of hotels had been closed by their owners in the last ten years because of their inability to operate efficiently.

"This is not a road we want to go down" said Mr. Hepple. "If our associates wish to have a union at the property or business level then fine, we can work with that. What we cannot do is see our industry torn apart by one union fighting the others solely in an attempt to increase membership. Aruba depends almost completely upon tourism for its livelihood. I shudder to think what will happen to Aruba if tourism is no longer there because our visitors decide they prefer to go somewhere else to avoid the negative consequences of this action"

Various San Nicolaas citizens to be honored



"Sugar Boy" Nando

In the months ahead, the government intends to honor various citizens of San Nicolaas and surrounding areas with a street of their name. Last November, we recall, it was Alicia Godett who was honored with a street named after her. Caya J. Van Stolbergstraat was changed to bear Alicia Godett's name.

A very well known personality of San Nicolas is Fernando Muller, who practiced the sport of boxing and was known as "Sugar Boy Nando". Who doesn't know Sugar Boy Nando? He was a boxer of high caliber who took Aruba's name to many parts of the world where he competed. In 1960 the legendary Rocky Marciano flew to Curacao to see Sugar Boy Nando fight. Marciano

wanted to take Sugar Boy Nando with him to the states. Along with being a famous boxer, Sugar Boy Nando was also a talented pianist.

Another prominent figure for whom a street will be named is George Rafael Pantophlet-another well known boxer of San Nicolas. Pantophlet's name in the boxing ring was "Battling Siki". He worked for more than 30 years as a LAGO police officer, he lived and raised his family in San Nicolas. In 2011 Battling Siki died at the ripe age of 81. George Rafael Pantophlet was very active with young people, helping them practice sports in general but especially the sport of boxing.

The government will continue to honor persons who in one form or the other has impacted the country positively, who has made a significant contribution to their barrio and vicinity. Persons who are soon to be honored with a street of their name are persons from a musical, spiritual, cultural, commercial or educational background. These names will soon be revealed. These are names attached to a history, a legacy that they left behind for future generations.

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S.Africa thieves steal man's dreadlocks



JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - A Zimbabwean man was recently robbed of his dreadlocks at a South African night club to feed a growing demand for human hair extensions, a local paper reported Tuesday.

The Times said Mutsa Madonko had his long locks that he has grown for 10 years, cut off while partying at a Johannesburg club.

Natural dreadlocks are sold as hair extensions for anything between 200 rand (\$22, 16 euro) and 2,500 rand (\$204, 278 euro) depending on the length, said The Times.

The extensions are weaved into clients' own hair. They are worn by both men and women.

Synthetic extensions have been used for years, but the Times report suggests demand for 100 percent human hair dreadlocks is growing in South Africa.

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Visitors give back to the Aruban community



Last Thursday the Aruba YMCA Dakota and the Mon Plasir kindergarden school were host to a group of 75 visitors who came to Aruba during their vacation on a cruise ship. It was a fabulous

day for teachers and the staff of the YMCA as these volunteers organized special games for the children. They played with the children, organized different tasks, helped with the cleanup of the YMCA

and even planted trees.

The volunteers arrived at the YMCA Dakota in two De Palm Tours busses. They were uniformed in white t-shirts bearing the official logo of Aruba. These are top sales people of a large American company which produces and sells natural ingredients called doTERRA.

Every year this company treats their best sales people for their hard work with a cruise trip. The vice-president of marketing for doTERRA, Rob, is the person in charge of the group that came to the YMCA and expressed that the 350 people of his company are always intent on dedicating one day of their vacation to voluntary work and this time they chose Aruba.

This voluntary action has become a tradition of the company and in Aruba they divided this big group into different small groups, one of which came to the YMCA Dakota.

Anky Vrolijk, general secretary of the YMCA Aruba was extremely pleased with this lovely gesture which began with a simple e-mail received by the YMCA from the doTerra company. She said it was fantastic to see so many people working and enjoying the company of the children of Mon Plasir



Kindergarden school at the YMCA Dakota.

Head of the school, Roy Keulers, played an important role in the process of coordination and in the actual execution of the visit of the volunteer tourists. Mon Plasir Kindergarden school is cur-

rently using the YMCA facilities temporarily until their school building is renovated. The Aruba YMCA and the Mon Plasir Kindergarden school are very grateful to doTERRA and their volunteers for choosing the YMCA.



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Topcar plans tremendous 45 year anniversary “Kick-off Party!”



As of the month of February, Topcar (local car dealership) enters their 45th year of existence on Aruba. Topcar represents the Nissan and KIA automobile brands on the island. For the past 45 years they have been the exclusive representative for the prestigious Nissan brand. More recently they have also gained the confidence of the KIA Motors Worldwide, and in 2009 became the exclusive representative for KIA Motors in Aruba.

Topcar is grateful to the

Aruban community for the confidence vested in them over the past 45 years. In both good times and difficult times Topcar has always received the confidence of one and all.

On the 6th of February, Topcar will begin their 45 year's anniversary celebration with a fantastic Kick-off party right on the grounds of Topcar. The celebration is scheduled to begin at 6:00pm in the afternoon with a line-up of some of Aruba's best musical bands, such as

Tsunami-Rincon Boys-Dushi Band-Upgrade Music and Le Groove. Popular radio and TV personality, Ruben Garcia will be the animator with bar and kitchen well stocked at special prices for the event.

Topcar has announced that for their 45 year's celebration they will raffle a 2013 KIA Picanto among those present for the Kick-off party on the 6th of February. Participation is completely free. Pickup your free ticket at Topcar as of Wednesday January 30th during office hours. Fill it out and drop it in the box at Topcar to secure your chance of winning the 2013 Kia Picanto.

In addition to being the exclusive agent for the Nissan and KIA automobiles, Topcar also offers immediate services in the area of sales, parts and mechanical work. Their experienced and committed staff always stand ready to provide the best service. Visit their showroom in the Caya Ernesto Petronia 21 or call 582-4203/582-3747 or e-mail them at info@topcar-aruba for more information. You can also like their Facebook page at Nissan Aruba y Kia Motors Aruba.

Bacchanal and Chibi van der Hans, a carnival institution



Unveiling of Bacchanal



Chibi supports the I Love My Body program

Begun 15 years ago as a school project, “Bacchanal” the island's official magazine of Carnival, has become the “bible” to which most islanders turn to find out what is happening. It is a fantastic source for fully understanding Aruba's most important

cultural event.

The magazine is a manifestation of the artistic talent and single-handed devotion to carnival by Friedrich (Chibi) van der Hans, designer, photographer, editor and publisher. He originally created the magazine to be his graduation thesis while attending the Minerva Art Academy in Groningen, Holland in 1995, where he obtained degrees in Graphic Art and Photography.

“I chose to make a magazine of carnival as my thesis because I wished to create a medium to best introduce to Holland something of Aruba” he explains. “I can think of nothing better than carnival to do so, as it has everything that sums up all aspects of island culture.

Continued on pg 5

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Bacchanal and Chibi van der Hans, a Carnival institution...

Continued from pg 4

It demonstrates every phase of the arts, visual and performing. There is original musical composition and choreography, fashion design and creative art in the construction of trailers and costumes; every artful discipline is represented; even comedy and drama during the Prins & Pancho elections. Carnival is a huge achievement, with the process and enormous effort repeated year after year."

"I also felt that such a magazine was needed to truly recognize and acknowledge those groups and individuals who dedicate so much time, work and creatively to the institution. To my knowledge, there was no publication that created a tangible history of each year's carnival prior to

my first issue."

Chibi also initiated what has become a beloved tradition: inaugurating carnival at 11/11/11, when members of SAC, the Stichting Arubaanse Carnival, which administrates events, officially opens the coming season at 11:00 AM on the eleventh day of November, the eleventh month of the year. In numerology it is date considered to carry great luck, and celebrating on this day the start of carnival dates back centuries to German history. After researching this, Chibi's findings were reinforced by then President of SAC, Milio Croes, and the first Bacchanal was launched on that date in 1998.

Bacchanal is distributed



for free at most gas stations, stationary stores and can be found at the offices of any of the advertisers. Chibi informs there are still a few copies left

for this year's edition, and he can be contacted at 582-4868 to obtain issues. Aside from a complete schedule of all upcoming events, it imparts a lively history of the various parades, carnival royalty elections and music contests, in both Papiamentu and English. This makes it an ideal medium for vacationers to truly understand and appreciate the importance of various events.

After fifteen years of publishing Bacchanal, Chibi is only looking to make it bigger and better. By next year and Carnival 60, which will be a landmark year, and

so should be especially spectacular, he will have a website up and running, which will also include a photo gallery of the current contests and parades. He plans to work with the carnival groups so that interested parties can also inscribe to join in carnival from his website. He has also been selected as part of the committee charged with establishing an official carnival museum in San Nicolas, by Minister Mike de Meza.

In Chibi's opinion, interest and enthusiasm for Aruba's carnival is unflagging. Each year it grows with new events, and he looks forward to chronicling each and every one.

By Rosalie Klein

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Dutch to crown new king with massive party

Continued from pg 1

Amsterdam spokesman Bartho Boer said Dutch people around the country had been telephoning city hall either to hold events in Amsterdam on the day or to offer their services as volunteers.

"We're expecting an extremely festive day," Amsterdam Tourist Federation spokeswoman Machteld Ligtoet told AFP.

"There will be more people attending the party than during a normal Queen's Day," she said, adding that all hotels in the city centre were already booked up.

Amsterdam's notorious coffee shops will also see particularly brisk trade in soft drugs, consumed by the Dutch and foreigners alike, and largely tolerated on the street on the special day.

In The Hague, the seat of government, Queen's Night is the big event, with thousands thronging the streets of the reputedly staid city for live concerts, fairs and other

street events.

It's no coincidence that Holland House, sponsored by Dutch beermaker Heineken, at Alexandra Palace was one of the most sought-after party venues during last year's London Olympics.

Popular daily Algemeen Dagblad noted on Tuesday that "for many subjects, the real news of the day wasn't the sovereign's abdication, but the fact that Queen's Day no longer exists."

When Beatrix became queen in 1980, her coronation day, which was also her mother Juliana's birthday, became Queen's Day. Once Willem Alexander is crowned, King's Day will be held every April 27 of his reign.

The day is the birthday of Willem Alexander, nicknamed "Prince Pils" in his youth because of his ability to drink large quantities of beer at student parties.

French parliament debates gay marriage law

PARIS (AFP) - France's prime minister on Tuesday predicted that gay marriage will quickly be accepted by a country that has spent months embroiled in rancorous debate between supporters and opponents of the rights of same sex couples to wed and adopt children.

As legislation to that effect was presented to parliament, bridges throughout Paris were bedecked with banners proclaiming opposition to the Socialist government's draft law.

Justice Minister Christiane Taubira told parliament as the debate kicked off that introducing gay marriage was "an act of equality". The govern-

ment has allowed for the debate to run until February 10 with a vote due two days later.

Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said the introduction of gay marriage would quickly come to be seen and accepted as a benchmark of social progress.

"Every time we have advanced equality in our country, there has been resistance, there have been fears and worries," Ayrault told parliament. "But once these laws have been passed, they have come to be seen as real steps forward, as achievements of French society. So it will be with this law on marriage for all."

Clinton says goodbye in global TV interview



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Despite being grounded on doctor's orders after a bout of ill-health, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Tuesday took a round-the-world trip from Antarctica to London to say a final farewell.

Using satellites and the Internet, she hooked into some of the world's major television networks to answer questions from local anchors and audiences in what was billed as a "Global Town Interview" by the State Department.

Clinton, who has traveled almost a million miles, apparently held 1,700 meetings with world leaders and suffered some 570 airplane meals, never moved from her seat in the Washington-based Newseum during her hour-long journey.

It was one of her last public events as she prepares to step down on Friday after four years as America's top diplomat, to be replaced by Senator John Kerry, whose full Senate confirmation was expected later Tuesday.

But she was able to do what she says she loves doing best, saying in her 59 town-hall meetings: "I've heard what's on people's minds and what their questions were. And so it's been a great two-

way communication."

Moving around the world taking questions from every continent and cities from Beirut to Tokyo, London to New Delhi, and on to Bogota via Lagos, Clinton was quizzed on the burning issues of the day.

There was even a question sent by email from a Chilean scientist working in the Antarctic, asking about America's future position on mineral resources there. The answer was "we are working on that."

Clinton was thrilled to get the question though, saying: "It's the one continent I haven't been to, so I'm very jealous that you're down there."

With the threat of Islamic extremism topping the headlines, Clinton agreed with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's anchor Leigh Sales that "historically" not enough focus has been given to North Africa.

Yet, in the wake of the Arab Spring, she said "it's also exciting to see people in North Africa after so many decades of oppression looking to find their own way forward democratically."

On the Middle East peace process, the outgoing secretary of state said she believed

the recent elections in Israel "opens doors, not nails them shut."

She also lauded ties with Japan, but regretted that North Korea's new leader Kim Jong-un had not taken steps to end his people's isolation.

Clinton said one of her biggest regrets was the death of four Americans killed in an attack on the US mission in Benghazi in September.

And she revealed that the past secretary of state she admired and identified with the most was William Seward who had run against Abraham Lincoln to be the president and then served under him.

But the questions kept coming back to the elephant in the room: what is Clinton, a former first lady and New York senator, planning to do next?

There's definitely another memoir in the works. "I don't know what I'll say in it yet," she said with a laugh.

And while the 2016 presidential elections may already be on the horizon, Clinton as usual deftly side-stepped the question of whether she'll run.

"I am not thinking about anything like that right now. I am looking forward to finishing up my tenure as secretary of state and then catching up on about 20 years of sleep deprivation," she chuckled.

She assured the audience though that she would keep on working for women's rights. "This has been the cause of my life and will continue to be as I leave the secretary of state's office because we are hurting ourselves," she said.

Denouncing the death of an Indian woman who was the victim of a gang-rape, she added: "Who knows what she could have contributed to India's future?"

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International News

Australian teen survives nine weeks in wild

SYDNEY (AFP) - An Australian teenager who went missing from his home in Sydney more than two months ago was discovered emaciated, exhausted and covered in leeches, but alive in bushland north of the city, police said.

Matthew Allen's family feared the worst after the 18-year-old disappeared in late November from Westleigh, near Cherrybrook in northwest Sydney and his mobile phone and bank accounts went untouched.

Extensive searches of the area by police failed to find a trace of Allen, who suffers from an undisclosed medical condition.

But two hikers spotted the teen lying in bushland less than two kilometres (just over a mile) from his home on Saturday, covered in leeches and insect bites and having lost almost half his body weight.

He was partially blind, exhausted and suffering gangrene to his lower legs and feet after an ordeal police said they were amazed he had survived.

"He was completely ex-

hausted, completely dehydrated, suffered significant weight loss, somewhere up to 50 percent. He was suffering from partial blindness and he had leeches all over him," said acting police inspector Glyn Baker.

"He was not living under any shelter and was exposed to the full conditions since reported being missing," he added.

Allen was believed to have deliberately hidden himself from view in the area which is heavily frequented by hikers.

He told rescuers he had survived by drinking from a local creek, which was almost dry when he was found. Allen endured soaring temperatures in recent weeks including a record-breaking 46 degree Celsius (115 Fahrenheit) day in Sydney.

Allen was airlifted to safety and was undergoing treatment in hospital for his injuries, which were described as not life-threatening.

"His family are ecstatic that he's alive and that he's well," said Baker.

Greece arrests first woman on child porn charges: police

ATHENS (AFP) - Greek police have arrested a 52-year-old woman on child pornography charges -- a first in the country -- following an investigation assisted by a Dutch journalist, authorities said on Tuesday.

The 52-year-old, a foreign language teacher, was arrested in Athens on Monday, the police said.

The journalist from the Netherlands had earlier alerted authorities after posing as a paedophile to arrange a meeting with the suspect, who is believed to be "an active member of several global child sex groups," a police statement said.

"This is the first woman arrested in Greece over this sort of crime," the police said.

In addition to child porn magazines and other items pertaining to the case, officers confiscated a notebook containing the names of participants in a "paedophile network" in Athens, the police said.

US senators unveil immigration reform deal

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Eight US lawmakers crossed party lines to unveil a plan Monday that would provide a pathway to citizenship for 11 million illegal immigrants currently living in the shadows in the United States.

It promises a "tough but fair" path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, reform that would build the US economy, an "effective" employment verification system and an improved process to admit future workers, the senators said.

The proposed legislation also increases the number of drones and other surveillance equipment, as well as the number of agents at and between ports of entry in a bid to better secure the long borders the United States shares with Canada to the north and especially Mexico to the south.

Senators backing the measure are Republicans John McCain, Marco Rubio, Lindsey Graham and Jeff Flake, along with Democrats Robert Menendez, Chuck Schumer, Dick Durbin and Michael Bennet.

Although the bill seeks to boost security measures, it also

vows to "strengthen prohibitions against racial profiling and inappropriate use of force," as well as improve training for border patrol agents and increase oversight.

In a bid to combat visa overstays, the lawmakers offered a requirement for those in the country illegally to register with the government.

Around 40 percent of the illegal immigrants now in the United States entered the country legally but then let their visa expire, according to official estimates.

But under the plan, they would also be able to earn "probationary" legal status -- to live and work legally in the US -- after passing a background check and paying a fine and back taxes.

Those with a "serious" criminal background or who otherwise threaten US national security would not be eligible for legal status and would face deportation, according to the framework document.

Under the plan, individuals who fulfill the requirements could eventually obtain a green card for permanent residency.

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US soldier says double arm transplant life-changing



WASHINGTON (AFP) - A US soldier who lost all his limbs in Iraq in 2009 said Tuesday he feels like himself again after he received a rare double arm transplant.

Brendan Marrocco, a former infantryman who was the first soldier to survive quadruple limb loss in the Iraq war, underwent the complex 13-hour surgery six weeks ago.

He is one of just seven people in the United States who have successfully received double arm transplants, and doctors say he has a long way to go before he can be certain his body will not reject the transplant and that he will gain function of the hands.

"Currently I don't really have feeling or motion in my hands yet. But we'll get there," Marrocco said at a press conference, in his first public appearance since the surgery.

With both arms and hands covered by casts and braces, and wearing a khaki t-shirt, Marrocco expressed determination and hope the new hands would change his life.

"I hated not having arms," he said.

"Not having arms takes so much away from you," he added, saying that losing both his legs was less frustrating in comparison.

"You talk with your hands, you do so much with your hands," he explained,

"When you don't have that, you're kind of lost for a while."

He said his new arms make him feel "almost like I went back four years," to before the roadside attack in Iraq where he was so gravely injured.

One of his doctors, Jaimie Shores, the clinical director of Johns Hopkins Hospital hand transplant program, said Marrocco will spend the next two to three years doing "intense hand therapy," six hours a day, every day.

"Brendan has a full-time job now," Shores said, adding the process "will take incredible amount of effort" as his nerves regenerate and teaches his body to use his new limbs.

But he said Marrocco was chosen for the surgery in part because the medical team believed he was up to the challenge.

"He's a young man with a tremendous amount of hope and he's stubborn. Stubborn in a good way," Shores said. "The sky's the limit with him," he added, of Marrocco's potential for gaining functional use of the new limbs.

Shores said a previous patient who had received a double arm transplant above the elbow was now, three years later, eating with chopsticks and tying his shoes.

Marrocco said he hopes to get back behind the wheel -- he has a black Dodge charger he's never driven waiting for him.

And the former soccer player said he hopes to get back to playing sports, though he said now he aims to take on hand-cycling.

"One of my goals is to hand cycle a marathon," Marrocco said.

In addition to the complex surgery, which involved the connection of bones, blood vessels, muscles, tendons, nerves and skin on both arms, Marrocco is undergoing an innovative treatment to prevent rejection of the new limbs.

That involved an infusion of the deceased donor's bone marrow cells, which has so far succeeded in both preventing rejection and reducing the need for anti-rejection drugs, which can cause complications such as infection and organ damage," Johns Hopkins said in a statement Monday.

The first successful double arm transplant was in 2008 in Germany. This was the first time the procedure was done at Johns Hopkins hospital in Baltimore.

Obama offers \$155 million in aid to Syria refugees

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama on Tuesday announced an extra \$155 million dollars to aid refugees fleeing what he said was "barbarism" propagated by the Assad government against Syrians.

Obama, unveiling a grant, which will take US humanitarian help to Syrians to \$365 million, also promised that the Assad regime "will come to an end. The Syrian people will have their chance to forge their own future."

"I want to speak directly to the people of Syria," Obama said, addressing the Syrian people in a YouTube video with Arabic subtitles.

"This new aid will mean more warm clothing for children and medicine for the elderly, flour and wheat for your families and blankets, boots and stoves for those huddled in damaged buildings," Obama said.

"It will mean health care for victims of sexual violence and field hospitals for the wounded. Even as we work to end the violence against you, this aid will help address some of the immediate needs you face each day."

The US announcement followed an appeal for funding by United Nations humanitarian

operations director John Ging ahead of a donor conference in Kuwait on Wednesday.

Ging said that the UN would be forced to cut already reduced food rations to hundreds of thousands of Syrians absent a huge cash injection.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will seek more than \$1.5 billion in new cash pledges at the Kuwait conference.

Washington has resisted calls to directly arm rebels battling the Assad government, fearing that US weapons could filter to terror groups including Al-Qaeda and worsen the bloodshed which has seen 60,000 people killed.

It has provided intelligence and logistics support and officially recognized the Syrian Opposition Coalition as the legitimate representative of the Syrian people.

The aid announced Tuesday will target severe food shortages and emergency health care and heating needs inside Syria, including for 400,000 Palestinian refugees in the country affected by the violence.

It also includes funding for refugee programs for Syrians who have fled the unrest and are imposing pressure on regional nations, including Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon.



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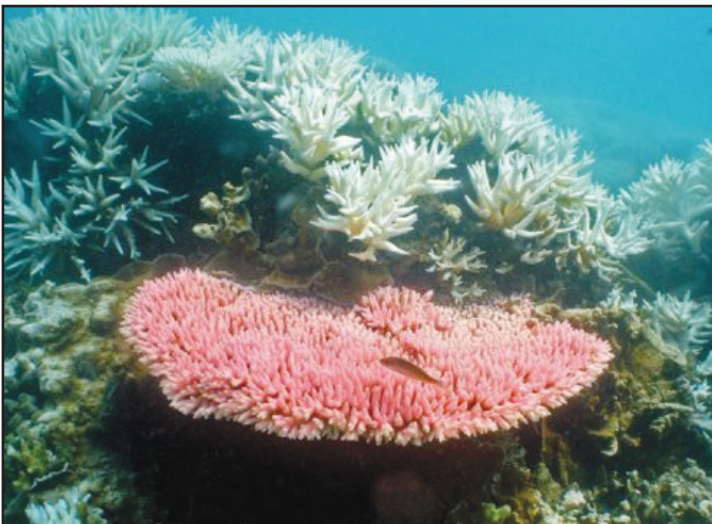
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Sci-Tech 'Alarming' decline in Caribbean coral reefs



A tourist snorkles over coral reef off Mansuar Island in eastern Indonesia's Papua region. Coral reefs in the Caribbean are producing less than half of the key ingredient that makes their calcium skeleton compared to pre-industrial times, scientists said on Tuesday, describing the findings as "extremely alarming."



An Australian Institute of Marine Science picture shows bleaching on Australia's Great Barrier Reef. The amount of new calcium carbonate being added by Caribbean coral reefs is at least half, and in some places 70 percent lower, than it was thousands of years ago.

AFP - Coral reefs in the Caribbean are producing less than half of the key ingredient that makes their calcium skeleton compared to pre-industrial times, scientists said on Tuesday, describing the findings as "extremely alarming."

The amount of new calcium carbonate being added by coral reefs is at least half, and in some places 70 percent

lower, than it was thousands of years ago.

Biologists have long sounded the alarm for reef-building corals, on which nearly half a billion people depend for their livelihood from fishing and tourism.

Previous research has estimated that coral cover is declining by as much as two percent per year in parts of the Indian Ocean and the Pa-

cific. In the Caribbean, cover has shrunk by around 80 percent on average since the mid-1970s.

According to a June 2012 update of the "Red List" compiled by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), 33 percent of reef-building corals are at risk of extinction.

Habitat destruction, pollution and more recently global warming are the factors blamed in the decline.

But data which compares today's trends with the pre-industrial past is sketchy.

Calcium carbonate is secreted by polyps, the tiny animals that live symbiotically with coral. Patiently accumulated, it provides the structure that enables coral to grow

vertically.

A multinational team led by Exeter University in southwestern England measured ancient corals at 19 sites in the Bahamas; Belize; Grand Cayman, which is part of the Cayman Islands; and Bonaire, a Dutch territory in the Leeward Antilles islands.

Their study, published in the journal Nature Communications, found that in shallow waters of around five metres (16.25 feet) in depth, reef growth rates today were between 60 and 70 percent lower compared to the regional averages of the distant past.

The fall was smaller -- around 25 percent -- in deeper waters of around 10 metres (32.5 feet).

Many reefs may have lost their ability to produce enough carbonate to grow vertically, according to the study. Some are already below the threshold by which enough carbonate is produced to maintain the skeletal reef structure, and thus are at risk of erosion.

The estimates "are extremely alarming," said Chris Petty, an Exeter University professor.

"Our findings clearly show that recent ecological declines are now suppressing the growth potential of reefs in the region, and that this will have major implications for their ability to respond positively to future sea-level rises."



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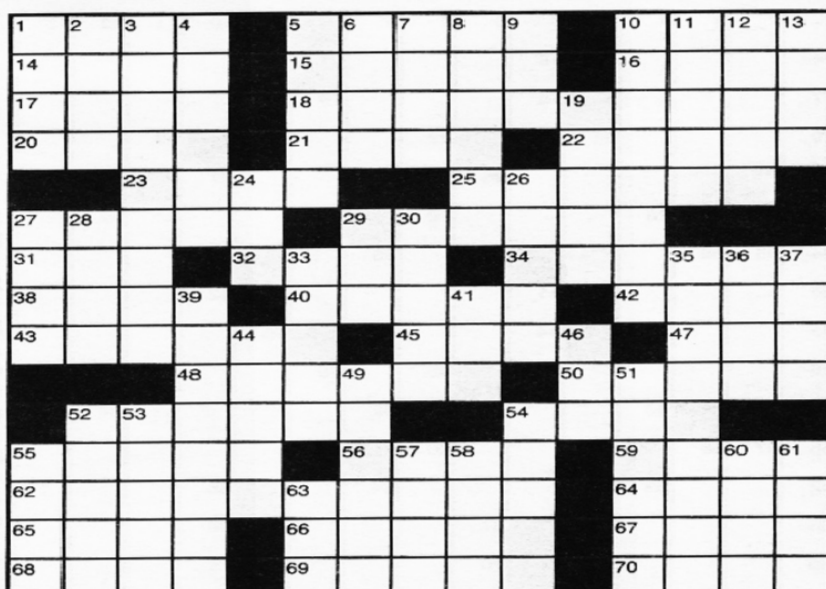
1. Italian town
5. Anemic one's shade
10. Vampire's garb
14. Sound-stage item
15. Chopin piece
16. Baseball's Hershisier
17. Play boisterously
18. He played Magnum
20. Atka neighbor
21. Place for a bun
22. Chorale members
23. ___ Major
25. Chatterley and Windermere
27. Artistic headwear
29. Sampled food
31. Torah holder
32. Freudians' concerns
34. French poet-critic André
38. Word in NAFTA: abbr.
40. Actress Gimpel
42. Hawk's opposite
43. Certain chickens
45. "___ of Our Lives"
47. Gull
48. ___ swiss
50. Brings up
52. Accumulate
54. Foolish talk
55. Greek epic
56. Columbus is here
59. Item on a Mexican menu
62. Monkeyshines
64. Pointed tools

DOWN

1. Start of a wand-waving phrase
2. Chimney black
3. Gobbler' guy
4. Adulterated
5. Italian volcano
6. Greek walkway
7. Camel feature
8. Ford's follies
9. Once known as
10. Banged
11. Rugged ridge

12. Rio Grande feeder
13. Fraternal group
19. Stevedore, at times
24. Holy mlle.
26. Cornered
27. Phoenician supreme deity
28. Columnist Bombeck
29. Craggy hill
30. Muttered comment
33. Sign, on the Seine
35. Atlanta fans' spongy toys
36. "___ There"
37. Fleet Street fodder
39. Writes up anew
41. Scoundrel
44. Musical form

46. Seatless situation, on B'way
49. Comeback toys of the '90s
51. Land holdings
52. Classroom teaching aid
53. Copp of "Unmade Beds"
54. Pepe Le Moko portrayer
55. Leaning letters: abbr.
57. Police, informally
58. "___ la Douce"
60. Congeal
61. Mountain in Thessaly
63. "Memoirs ___ Geisha" (1998 bestseller)

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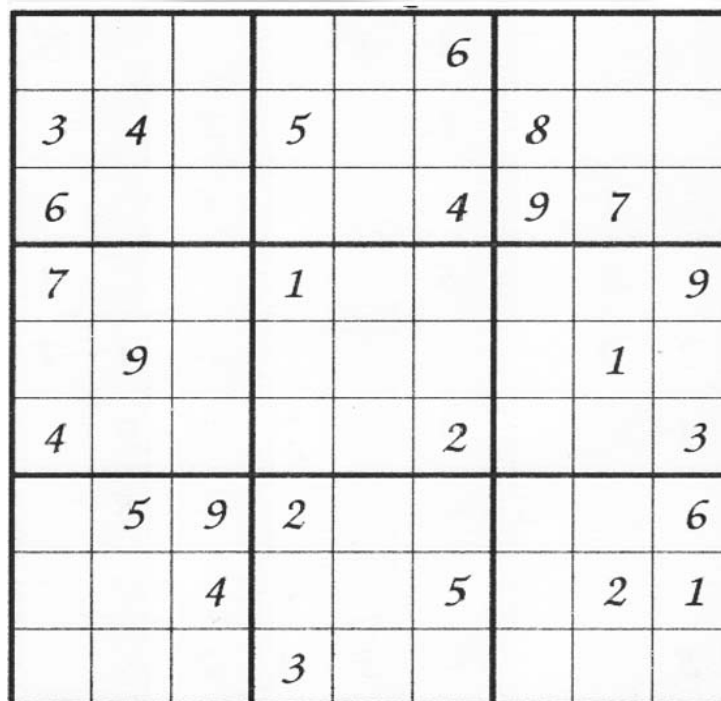
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9	4	7	8	2	6	5	1	3
5	3	9	2	1	4	6	8	7
2	1	3	6	7	8	9	5	4
6	8	4	5	1	3	2	9	7
3	5	6	7	8	1	9	4	2
7	9	8	6	1	5	2	3	4
4	1	9	3	2	7	8	6	5

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Finance

BP's \$4.5 bn plea deal over US oil spill approved by judge

CHICAGO (AFP) - A US judge on Tuesday approved a \$4.5 billion deal in which BP pleaded guilty to criminal charges from the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill -- but the British energy giant's legal woes are far from over.

BP is set to return to the New Orleans courthouse on February 25 for a mammoth trial consolidating scores of remaining lawsuits stemming from the worst environmental disaster to strike the United States.

It must still resolve a civil case on environmental fines which could amount to as much as \$18 billion if gross negligence is found. It also remains on the hook for economic damages, including the cost of environmental rehabilitation.

The blowout on the BP-leased Deepwater Horizon drilling rig on April 20, 2010 killed 11 people and sent some 4.9 million barrels of oil into the Gulf, blackening beaches in five states.

BP America vice president Luke Keller apologized to the families of the deceased and other victims at a hearing in New Orleans.

It took 87 days to cap BP's runaway well 5,000 feet (1,500 meters) below the

ocean surface off the coast of Louisiana.

BP pleaded guilty in November to 11 counts of manslaughter, one count of felony obstruction of Congress and two environmental violations.

It has signaled it will continue to aggressively pursue damages from rig operator Transocean and well operations subcontractor Halliburton, which BP blames for faulty work leading up to the blowout.

Judge Carl Barbier -- an expert in maritime law charged with consolidating hundreds of spill-related lawsuits into the single case -- has left the door open to some shared liability in key pre-trial rulings.

Several government probes have already castigated BP, Transocean and Halliburton -- which was responsible for the well's faulty cement job -- for cutting corners and missing crucial warning signs.

Transocean agreed last month to pay a \$1.4 billion fine and plead guilty to violating the Clean Water Act, but it argues that, as operator, BP must accept full liability for the disaster.

Fed opens meeting amid easing chatter

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Federal Reserve opened its first meeting of the year Tuesday amid speculation the central bank could move faster than expected to tighten monetary policy this year.

But divining the direction of policy will also be challenged by the arrival of four new voting members to the 12-strong Federal Open Market Committee policy panel under an annual rotation of regional Fed presidents.

Analysts expected the FOMC, led by chairman Ben Bernanke, would announce no change in policy tack at the conclusion of the two-day meeting Wednesday.

At the December 11-12 meeting, the central bank boosted its asset purchases to \$85 billion a month, on an open-ended basis.

It also set for the first time unemployment and inflation targets for curbing stimulus and signaled that it expected to hold its benchmark interest rate at the current ultra-low level through mid-2015.

But minutes of the FOMC meeting exposed divisions among policymakers over how long to keep policy accommodative, with some suggesting a tightening may be warranted as early as this year.

The FOMC meeting comes sandwiched in a week packed with economic data. Early Wednesday payrolls firm ADP will report on January job growth and the government will provide its first estimate of 2012 fourth-quarter economic growth.

On Friday, the highly anticipated January jobs report is expected to show the unemployment rate slipped a tenth point to 7.7 percent, well above the Fed's benchmark 6.5 percent jobless rate to tighten policy.

Inflation remains tame, just below 2.0 percent, as the economy still struggles to recover more than three years after exiting the Great Recession. The Fed benchmark is 2.5 percent.

But Kathy Lien at BK Asset Management said the four newcomers to the FOMC tilt toward a more hawkish stance than the four exiting.

Two newcomers, Charles Evans of the Chicago Fed branch and Eric Rosengren of

Boston, are believed less worried about low interest rates fueling a burst of price rises.

But incoming Esther George, from the Kansas City Fed, and James Bullard of the St. Louis Fed, have both expressed concerns that the Fed's ultra-loose monetary policy will stoke inflation.

"This implies that the new voting members of the FOMC may be a bit more eager to phase out asset purchases this year than previously anticipated. Unfortunately we won't know if additional members supported this idea until the minutes are released on February 20th," Lien said.

Japan cabinet approves \$1.02 trillion annual budget

TOKYO (AFP) - Japan's cabinet Tuesday approved a \$1.02 trillion annual budget with boosts in defence and public works spending amid a festering territorial row with China and a renewed assault on deflation.

The cabinet approved a 92.61-trillion-yen (\$1.02 trillion) budget for fiscal 2013, with revenue estimated at 43.10 trillion yen and new bond issuance at 42.85 trillion yen -- the first time in four years revenue will have been greater than new bond issuance.

The budget is down from the 92.9 trillion yen allocated in the fiscal 2012 initial budget, the first decrease in seven years.

But the cabinet approved a \$52 billion military budget, a boost in both financial and personnel resources for the first time in years.

Meanwhile, public works spending rises for the first time in four years, growing by 712 billion yen to 5.29 trillion yen.

Abe, who took office in December, has pledged to pull Japan out of years of deflation by active government spending coupled with aggressive monetary easing by the Bank of Japan.

Abe's government announced a \$226.5 billion stimulus package earlier this month.

In the fiscal 2013 budget, the issuance of new government bonds decreases by 1.4 trillion yen from the preceding year to 42.85 trillion yen.

The government is planning an \$86 billion bond sale to pay for the stimulus, stoking fears about spending by Tokyo, which already owes creditors cash equal to twice the size of its economy.



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REFRY	ESPY	
RAGU	STOW	ABATE
ORONO	ALE	ROVER
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Pre-school - "VillaDoortje" had their Carnaval Celebration



Yesterday the "VillaDoortje" Pre-School and Daycare center held their Carnaval Celebration! Leader Edwina Does together with Mini Queen Yarzinha Saladin and Prins Desmond Croes with his Pancho Dylan Hagens led the celebration with a Jolly Jump-Inn. All the "doortjes" together with the staff members had a great day celebrating Carnaval!

Congratulations from the crew of The Morning News.

Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Grandma's classic Stew beef with Rice and Potato salad

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varela Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won

this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varela's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena - "Full

Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses of Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mus-



Varela, Luisa and the next generation of chef

sels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food,

without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local. **They are open from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining.** Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded get-



away; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas, The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold

Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further en-

hance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Sport

Football: Casillas' girlfriend says Real Madrid divided

MADRID (AFP) - Real Madrid goalkeeper Iker Casillas' girlfriend, television sports journalist Sara Carbonero, said Tuesday there was a split between the team's players and coach Jose Mourinho.

"It is the popular opinion that the players don't get on with their coach at all," 28-year-old Carbonero told Mexican television station Televisa.

"Right now, there is a split in the changing room and we will have to wait until the end of the season to see if Mourinho ends up going because he has many fronts open here at Real Madrid," she said.

Spain's biggest selling sports daily Marca last week said Casillas and fellow captain Sergio Ramos had urged club chairman Florentino Perez to fire Mourinho before next season.

According to Marca, they warned that several Real Madrid players would leave if the Portuguese stayed on next season.

Casillas, 31, was controversially benched by Mourinho just before Christmas, further stoking rumours of division in the club.

In any case, the Spanish international has now been sidelined for eight to 12 weeks with a fractured left thumb, for which he had an operation on Friday.

Today Real Madrid will host archrivals and La Liga leaders Barcelona for the first leg of the semi-final of the domestic King's Cup.

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Baseball: A-Rod among players named in doping report

MIAMI (AFP) - New York Yankees star Alex Rodriguez and other Major League Baseball players were named in a report detailing the records of a Miami clinic that allegedly supplied them performance-enhancing drugs.

Miami New Times published the report on Tuesday based on records obtained from an employee at Biogenesis, a clinic run by Anthony Bosch, who was connected to Manny Ramirez when he was suspended for 50 games for doping in 2009.

Rodriguez, who in 2009 admitted taking performance-enhancing substances while with the Texas Rangers from 2001-2003, also said he had never taken such drugs since then or with the Yankees, but his name appears 16 times in Biogenesis records from 2009 through 2012.

New Times said Bosch kept handwritten notebooks and one with Rodriguez's name was labeled 2012 and said, "He is paid through April 30th. He will owe May 1 \$4,000... I need to see him between April 13-19, deliver troches, pink

cream, and... May meds. Has three weeks of Sub-Q (as of April)."

Bosch's notes outlined "troches" as a drug lozenge with 15 percent testosterone while the "pink cream" includes testosterone and the "Sub-Q" is a mix of drugs that includes human growth hormones.

Other notebooks linked Rodriguez to paying Bosch \$3,500 for human growth hormone, a banned substance, as well as testosterone cream and supplements; GHRP, a substance that releases growth hormones, and IGF-1, a banned substance stimulating insulin production and muscle growth.

"The news reports about a purported relationship between Alex Rodriguez and Anthony Bosch are not true," Rodriguez said in a statement first released to the New York Post.

"Alex Rodriguez was not Mr. Bosch's patient, he was never treated by him and he was never advised by him. The purported documents referenced in the story -- at least as they relate to Alex Rodriguez -- are not legitimate."

A-Rod, a three-time American League Most Valuable Player, is recovering from hip surgery. The 37-year-old third baseman is expected back as early as July.

But a doping suspension could wipe out his hopes of returning this season and might have the Yankees thinking twice about his future with the club.

Africa Cup of Nations

NELSPRUIT (AFP) - Zambia became the first Africa Cup of Nations' holders to be knocked out in the first round for 21 years after a nerve-racking 0-0 draw with Group C table toppers Burkina Faso on Tuesday.

The titleholders' third straight stalemate left them emulating Algeria, who failed to reach the quarter-finals as reigning champions in 1992.

Zambia missed out after Nigeria nabbed the runners-up spot in Group C courtesy of their 2-0 win over Ethiopia in the match being played simultaneously in Rustenburg.

That left the Nigerians level on five points with Burkina Faso, but in second on goal difference.

As surprise winners of the mini-league, the Burkinabe's reward is a quarter-final clash with the Group D runners-up, either Togo or Tunisia.

While in Rustenburg Chelsea midfielder Victor Moses converted two late penalties to give Nigeria a 2-0 win over Ethiopia on Tuesday and a place in the Africa Cup of Nations quarter-finals.

Moses slotted spot kicks into the right and left corners on 79 and 90 minutes to earn the Super Eagles a last-eight showdown with title favourites and Group D winners Ivory Coast in this north-western mining town Sunday.

It was a disappointing exit for bottom team Ethiopia, back in the big time after 31 years, as they finished the game a man short when goalkeeper Sasay Bancha got a late red card.

While this duo were celebrating progress to the knockout stage, Zambia were

packing their bags after becoming the first title-holders since Algeria in 1992 to suffer a first-round exit.

The 2012 heroes were left stranded in third place after three successive stalemates, Herve Renard's side eliminated after a closing goalless draw in Nelspruit against the Burkinabe.

The only low point on an otherwise memorable night for Burkina Faso was the sight of star Alain Traore -- leading scorer in the competition with three goals -- being stretchered off clutching his left thigh in the opening minutes.

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Jemal Le Grand honored

continued from page 16

Both the Sun Sentinel and the Miami Herald annually select the best athletes of every sports, naming them All Star athletes. The Broward County High School Athlete of the Year will be announced at a later date during a small ceremony.

At present Jemal is in his last school year. His achievement did not go unnoticed; various colleges and universities have offered Jemal the opportunity to continue his studies while joining their swim teams to compete at the NCAA level.

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ATHLETES ON THE FAST TRACK SWIMMING Text b

BOYS FIRST TEAM

- 

KEEGAN BOISSON-YATES
Taravella senior **Best events:** 100 backstroke (51.21, AA-C), 100 butterfly (50.45, AA-C). **Comment:** Finished third in the state in 100 butterfly and tied for fifth in 100 backstroke, posting All-American consideration times in both events.
- 

LUCAS DEBRITO
Sagemont senior **Best events:** 100 butterfly (49.48, AA-A), 500 freestyle (4:32.55, AA-C). **Comment:** Finished fourth in 100 fly at state and tied for fourth in 500 free. Led off 400 free relay that finished third.
- 

ILYA EVDOKIMOV
Taravella junior **Best events:** 200 IM (1:57.39), 100 breaststroke (57.47, AA-C). **Comment:** Placed third in 100 breast at state in All-American consideration time. Regional and district champ in 100 breast and 200 IM.
- 

BRANDON GOLDMAN
St. Thomas Aquinas senior **Best events:** 200 IM (1:52.78, AA-C), 100 backstroke (51.21, AA-C). **Comment:** Finished second in state in 200 IM and tied for fifth in 100 back in All-American consideration times and led off county's best 200 medley relay.
- 

KENT HAEFFNER
Pine Crest junior **Best events:** 200 freestyle (1:40.92, AA-C), 500 freestyle (4:30.93). **Comment:** Finished third in the state in 500 free and fourth in 200 free — achieving both in All-American consideration times.
- 

JACK HARRINGTON
St. Thomas Aquinas junior **Best events:** Diving (461.60). **Comment:** Placed fifth at state (402.95) after capturing district and regional championship for third consecutive year. Best point total came at regional.
- 

JEMAL LE GRAND
Sagemont senior **Best events:** 200 freestyle (1:38.76, AA-A), 100 freestyle (45.52, AA-A). **Comment:** After sitting out 2011 season, placed second at states in 200 free and 100 free — both in AA-A times — and anchored 400 relay (third).
- 

ALEXANDER LILLEY
St. Thomas Aquinas senior **Best events:** 100 butterfly (50.35, AA-C). **Comment:** Placed second in the state in 100 fly for second consecutive year. Also led off Raiders' 200 relay (seventh) and 400 relay (fifth).
- 

LANCE RUTKIN
Fort Lauderdale senior **Best events:** 500 freestyle (4:25.78 AA-A), 200 freestyle (1:40.09, AA-C). **Comment:** Princeton signee, also a first-team pick in 2011, finished second in the state in 500 free and third in 200 free.

FIRST-TEAM BOYS RELAYS

200-medley relay: St. Thomas Aquinas (Brandon Goldman, Silva Perez, Alex Lilley, RJ Moore), 1:38.67. **200-free relay:** American Heritage (Scott Clark, Julien Pinon, Digby Nothard, Daniel Spas), 1:26.73 AA-C. **400-free relay:** Sagemont (Lucas DeBrito, Ferruccio Rossi, Ben Fruitman, Jemal Le Grand), 3:09.38 AA-C

BOYS SECOND TEAM

Alex Evenson, Pine Crest, Jr., 100 breaststroke (1:00.93), 200 IM (1:57.54). **Connor Gerrits**, Pine Crest, Jr., diving (437.25). **Descartes Holland**, Pine Crest, Jr., 50 free (21.47), 100 free (47.72). **Marco Hosfeld**, University School, Jr., 200 freestyle (1:41.72), 500 free (4:35.05 AA-C). **Ralph Marcoux**, Fort Lauderdale, Fr., 50 free (21.92), 100 free (47.66). **Chad Moody**, Cardinal Gibbons, Jr., 100 backstroke (53.20). **Francisco Parra**, Cypress Bay, Sr., 100 free (47.42), 200 free (1:42.58). **Daniel Pereira**, University School, So., 100 breaststroke (1:00.39), 200 IM (1:58.87). **Julien Pinon**, American Heritage, Fr., 100 free (48.29), 200 free (1:41.31). **200-medley relay:** Nova (Brandon Parkinson, Ryan O'Hara, Aleksander Kuzjokin, Anton Kuzjokin), 1:40.87. **200-free relay:** Sagemont (Lucas DeBrito, Ferruccio Rossi, Ben Fruitman, Jemal Le Grand), 1:27.8. **400-free relay:** American Heritage (Julien Pinon, Nico Medina, Fernando Bohorquez, Daniel Spas), 3:10.43

Aruba Edges Out Bahamas



FREEPORT, Grand Bahama:-- For the third consecutive time, Aruba defeated the Bahamas, the last coming in the championship game to secure their berth as the representative of the English Caribbean Amateur Softball Federation (ECASF) in the World Championships in Cali, Colombia in July.

Aruba, with a youthful team of players between the ages of 17-21, blew out the Bahamas 15-5 by abbreviated ten run rule.

The game should have been stopped after the fifth inning with Aruba leading

15-5 by the International Softball Federation (ISF) rules, but the Bahamas Softball Federation had set the game to be played for the full seven innings.

Aruba, who were awarded a bye into the final after they pulled off a 12-4 win in the opening game on Thursday (after it was tied 3-3 in regulation) and came back for an 8-7 decision on Saturday night to finish the double round robin with a 5-0 record, took control of the game from the first two innings and they never relinquished the lead.



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